

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 EUR-12 COME-00
ISO-00 TRSE-00 EA-07 NEA-10 AF-10 L-03 FRB-03
OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00
OIC-02 EPG-02 SIL-01 STR-04 CEA-01 ARA-06 /113 W
-----140532Z 079489 /10

R 121630Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4568
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USMISSION GENEVA

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EPAP, FAO
SUBJECT: NATURAL RUBBER

REF: STATE 104226

1. FAO USED TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN ASSISTANCE TO NATURAL RUBBER PRODUCTION AND PROCSSING. FAO NOW EXECUTING AGENCY FOR A VERY LARGE UNDP PROJECT TO REPLANT 1.7 MILLION ACRES IN THAILAND AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PROCESSING IN SRI LANKA USING BLOCK PROCESSING.

2. EMBASSY POUCHING MAY 13 TO BYRNES, IO/AGR, FOLLOWING FAO REPORTS WHICH FULLY DESCRIBE FAO'S PAST, PRESENT AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES: REVIEW OF AGS PROJECTS IN NATURAL
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RUBBER PROCESSING DATED JANUARY 1974; COUNTRY PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR RUBBER DEVELOPMENT AND FAO ASSISTANCE DATED DECEMBER 1976; AND PROCESSING OF NATURAL RUBBER, AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BULLETIN NO. 20.

3. BY COUNTRY, FAO RUBBER PRODUCTION EXPERT GUNAWARDENE DESCRIBED FAO ACTIVITIES, USING TWO HEADQUARTERS AND 35

FIELD STAFF WHO ARE NOT EXCLUSIVELY ON RUBBER, AS FOLLOWS:

THAILAND-REPLANT 1.7 MILLION ACRES AT THE RATE OF 120,000 ACRES A YEAR. PRESENT OLD TREES PRODUCE ABOUT 250 LBS. PER ACRE AND EARLY RESULTS INDICATE GOAL OF 1,600 LBS. PER ACRE ARE FEASIBLE. PROJECT MANAGER IS DR. J. BLENCOWE AND HE HAS 3 EXPERTS HELPING HIM. TRAINING IS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT.

SRI LANKA--ABOUT ONE-HALF OF SRI LANKA'S RUBBER TREES HAVE BEEN REPLANTED OVER PAST 20 YEARS. BUDGETARY CONSTRAINT HAS SLOWED REPLANTING LATERLY. PRESENT FAO PROJECT IS TO IMPROVE LOCAL PROCESSESSING BY BLOCK PROCESS. ONE EXPERT IS PROVIDED BY FAO.

PAPAA NEW GUINEA--FAO HAS TWO PEOPLE THERE TRAINING LOCALS TO TRAIN FARMERS IN BETTER TAPPING METHODS.

NIGERIA--NO FAO PROJECTS, BUT THERE IS A LOT OF CONTACT WITH RUBBER GROWERS.

LIBERIA--FAO IS ASSISTING INFORMALLY IN PILOT REHABILITATION PROJECT AND TRAINING FARMERS IN REPLANTING.

SIERRE LEONE--FAO HAS HELPED 2,000 ACRES PRESENTLY PLANTED IN RUBBER. COUNTRY WISHES TO EXPAND ACREAGE AND UK IS HELPING TRAIN FARMERS, SOME OF WHOM ARE BEING SENT TO FAO PROJECT IN THAILAND.

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IVORY COAST--NO FAO PROJECTS BUT THERE IS CLOSE CONTACT ESPECIALLY IN WORK ON MICRO-TAPPING.

LATIN AMERICA--NO PROJECTS BUT FAO HAS HELPED LIMIT SPREAD OF LEAF BLIGHT DISEASE AND IS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH EFFORTS TO DEVELOP RESISTENT RUBBER PLANTS.

4. FINALLY FAO COMMODITIES DIVISION HAS FINISHED ITS WORK ON LONG-TERM PROJECTS OF NATURAL RUBBER PRODUCTION. OTHER HALF OF STUDY, DEMAND PROJECTION, IS IN DRAFT AT WORLD BANK WITH ENZIO GRILLI IF DEPARTMENT INTERESTED, BUT OUTPUT IN 1985 IS PROJECTED AT 5.9 MILLION TONS. GARDNER

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Disposition Reason:
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